(54) Title: METHOD FOR SEAMLESS SPLICING IN A VIDEO ENCODER

(57) Abstract

A method of achieving seamless switching of digitally compressed signals. The method includes the steps of identifying the point in a video signal where splicing to a second video signal is desired, and thereafter, maintaining adherence to certain parameters in the encoder buffer to ensure that the input signal is not being compressed at a rate that causes either underflow or overflow in the encoder buffer. The method also includes the steps of constraining the upper bound of the encoder buffer to ensure that data is not being outputted from the encoder buffer to the decoder buffer too slowly so as to cause an underflow of data in the decoder buffer. The method may also include the steps of constraining the lower bound of the encoder buffer to ensure that data is not being outputted from the encoder buffer to the decoder buffer too quickly so as to cause an overflow of data in the decoder buffer.